



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## School Choice Group Hails Parental Choice in H.R. 1

Children First America, a leading school choice advocacy group, recently praised the House version of President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education plan, approved overwhelmingly on May 23 by a vote of 384-45.

"The *No Child Left Behind* program passed through the House will expand public school choice and charter school options for parents, and will make it possible for children in failing schools to receive supplemental services (such as remedial education) from private providers and private schools," a Children First America press release said.

Children First America also praised the recent enactment of the tax bill, which expands education savings accounts (ESAs) to allow parents to invest up to \$2,000 annually and pay no interest on interest earned by the accounts. "Parents will now . . . for the first time use [ESA] money for K-12 expenses, including tuition, after-school tutoring, books, and computers."

Children First America called on legislators to enact more reforms that enhance parental choice in education. "[W]e need to get more bang for each education buck. Allowing parents to choose among schools will encourage schools to get the most out of education spending. . ."

### Message of the Day

**The *No Child Left Behind* education plan gives parents unprecedented new choices in guiding their children's education.**

- ❑ *These changes represent a significant departure from the status quo and will empower low-income parents with new options and new choices.*
- ❑ *They represent an important step toward equal education opportunity in America -- but not by any means the final step.*
- ❑ *We have laid the groundwork for reforms that go even further for parents and children.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The tax bill allows parents to invest up to \$2,000 annually in ESAs and permits tax-free withdrawals for both college tuition *and* elementary and secondary education, including private school tuition.
- The federal government will, for the first time, help parents pay for private K-12 schooling.
- Under H.R. 1, parents, also for the first time, will be able to use Title I money for supplemental services such as tutoring from private, faith-based providers.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The education bill likely to land on Bush's desk helps to set a tone: Public education in this country must improve -- especially for students trapped in the worst, most lackadaisical schools."* **Chicago Tribune editorial, June 13, 2001**